

Grant Fund Information & NC OpenBook Link Report



Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and the Fiscal Research Division

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Office of Information Technology Services

July 22, 2015

Legislative Request

This report is submitted pursuant to House Bill 812, which directs the State Chief Information Officer, through the Digital Commons initiative, to “ensure that the data on grants or awards of public funds to non-State entities is available on the NC OpenBook Web site and displayed in a consistent and easily accessible manner on the Web sites of all State institutions, departments, bureaus, agencies, and commissions.” This act is to be implemented by December 31, 2015.

The full text of the legislation can be found in Appendix A.

Digital Commons Background

The Innovation Center, the OITS Digital team and Cabinet Agencies initiated the Digital Commons project in late 2013. The redesign of Executive Agency websites will provide a consistent design and intuitive navigation that improves the user’s online experience. Based on requirements gathered across the agencies and work teams, a contract was awarded in July 2014 for a vendor to assist in design, user experience, information architecture, and content management strategy for Cabinet Agency primary websites.

In October 2014, an additional contract was awarded to a second vendor to assist in developing and deploying the primary agency websites through an enterprise Content Management System (CMS) that enables non-technical users to manage site content in an efficient and user-friendly manner. The new websites will enable a similar user experience across desktops, tablets, and mobile devices by using a responsive design. By sharing resources, the cost associated with agencies pursuing these efforts individually is greatly reduced.

Digital Commons will also consolidate the majority of websites to the same enterprise CMS and underlying platform, providing for standardization, consistent state branding, and leveraging similar resources and skillsets.

As of July 2015, five websites have been redesigned and re-architected per Digital Commons, including:

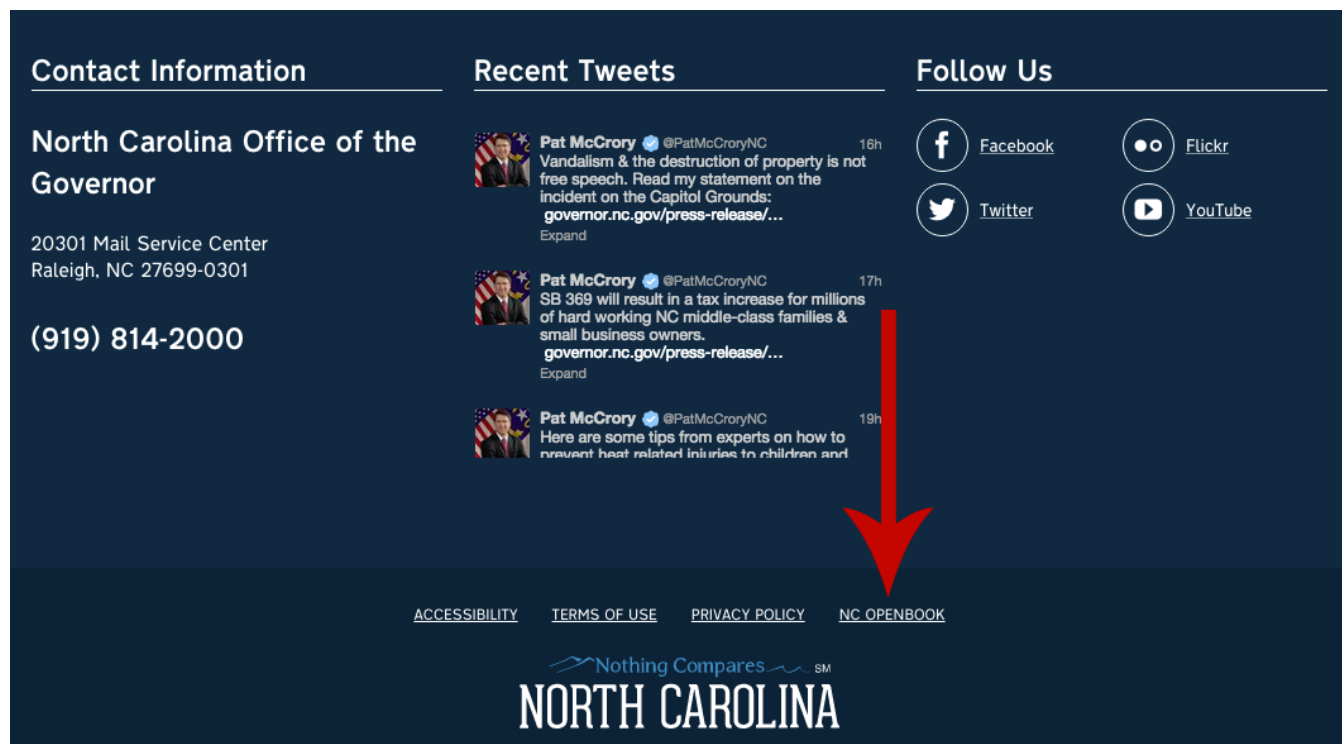
- NC.Gov (<http://nc.gov>)
- Governor’s Office (<http://governor.nc.gov>)
- Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/>)
- Office of Information Technology (<http://it.nc.gov>)
- Department of Cultural Resources (<http://www.ncdcr.gov/>)

Each of the sites listed above currently include the NC OpenBook link. The remaining Cabinet Agency websites will display the link by December 2015.



NC OpenBook Link

The NC OpenBook link has been placed on the homepages and site pages of current Digital Commons sites in a consistent manner. This link will also be displayed on all future Digital Commons sites. The screenshot below illustrates how an end-user will find this link as he or she navigates Cabinet agency websites.



Other State Websites

The State Chief Information Officer has technical responsibility for Cabinet Agency websites per Digital Commons. However, other state websites including Council of State agencies maintain independent web systems and content platforms. To facilitate the placement of the NC OpenBook link on non-Cabinet agency websites, the State CIO will do the following:

- 1) Create, maintain, and distribute a Digital Commons web template set that includes consistent enterprise elements including the NC OpenBook link in the footer.
- 2) Create communications campaign to alert agency CIOs and department and division directors about the NC OpenBook requirement. A letter is included in Appendix B below.



Appendix A - Legislation

“SECTION 2. The State Chief Information Officer, through the Digital Commons Project, shall ensure that the data on grants or awards of public funds to non-State entities that is available on the NC OpenBook Web site is displayed in a consistent and easily accessible manner on the Web sites of all State institutions, departments, bureaus, agencies, and commissions.

The State Chief Information Officer shall fully implement this act by December 31, 2015.

The State Chief Information Officer shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and the Fiscal Research Division prior to August 1, 2015, on a time line for implementing this act.”

See <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/House/PDF/H812v4.pdf>

Appendix B - Letter

[To be put on State CIO letterhead]

To: Agency Heads

CC: Agency CIO's and Digital Services

Dear [Agency Head]:

According to SL 2015-114, we request your participation to make the NC OpenBook website available in the footer on your agency website and any website associated with your agency by December 31, 2015.

The law reads:

“SECTION 2. The State Chief Information Officer, through the Digital Commons Project, shall ensure that the data on grants or awards of public funds to non-State entities that is available on the NC OpenBook Web site is displayed in a consistent and easily accessible manner on the Web sites of all State institutions, departments, bureaus, agencies, and commissions.

The State Chief Information Officer shall fully implement this act by December 31, 2015.



The State Chief Information Officer shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and the Fiscal Research Division prior to August 1, 2015, on a time line for implementing this act.”

Websites that have been redesigned through the Digital Commons Project will already have this link embedded in the footer. However, websites outside the scope of the Digital Commons Project will need to add the link manually. This information should be passed along to any website administrator that is housed within your agency. For guidance on adding and placing the link, please have your website administrator contact digital@its.nc.gov.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

